

CH1 CA 94151

Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (ACCA21).
INTRODUCTION TO CHINA'S AGENDA 21. 1994.

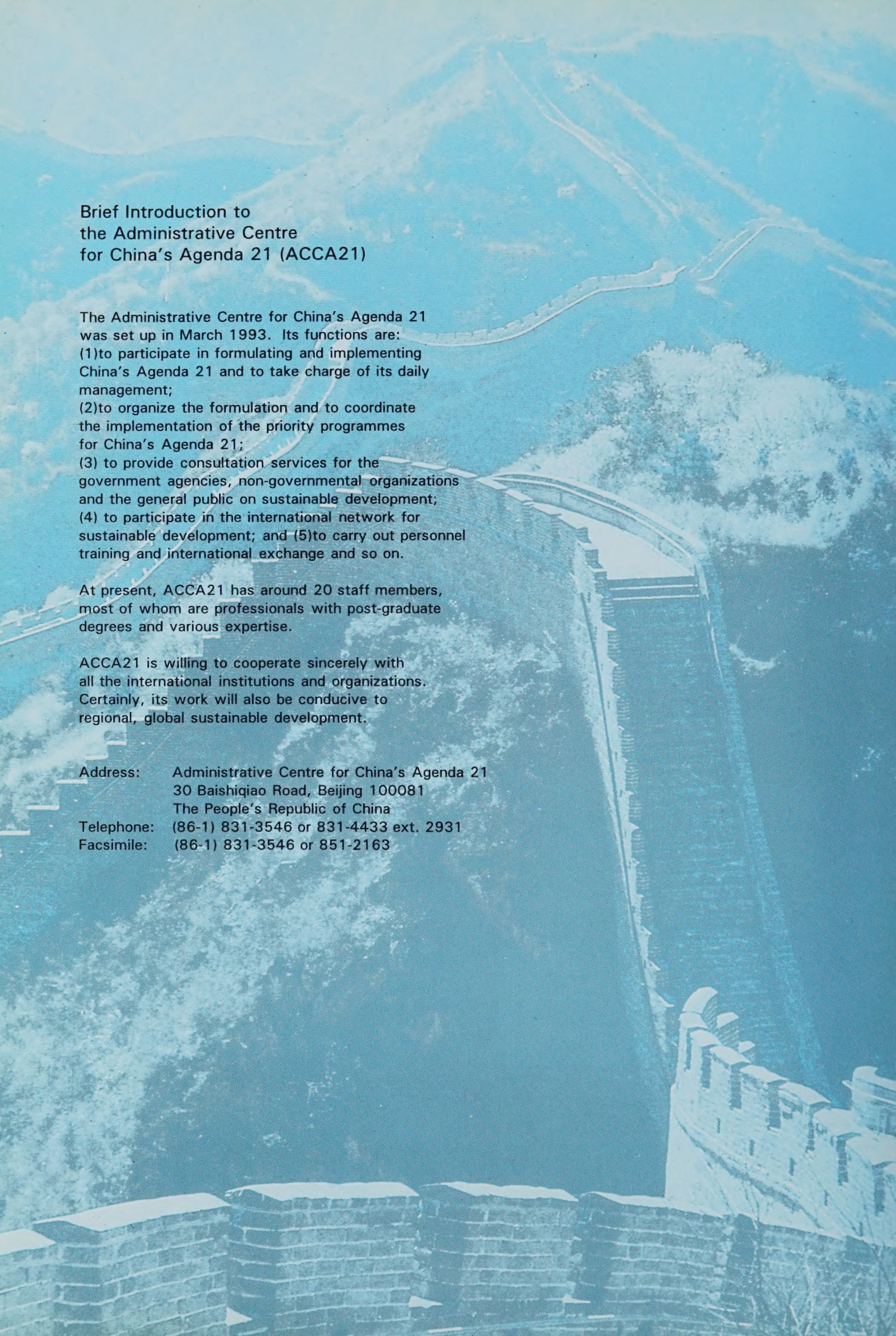
CH 1 CA 94151

INTRODUCTION
TO
CHINA'S AGENDA 21

Earth Sciences Library

BEIJING 1994





Brief Introduction to the Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (ACCA21)

The Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 was set up in March 1993. Its functions are:

- (1) to participate in formulating and implementing China's Agenda 21 and to take charge of its daily management;
- (2) to organize the formulation and to coordinate the implementation of the priority programmes for China's Agenda 21;
- (3) to provide consultation services for the government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the general public on sustainable development;
- (4) to participate in the international network for sustainable development; and (5) to carry out personnel training and international exchange and so on.

At present, ACCA21 has around 20 staff members, most of whom are professionals with post-graduate degrees and various expertise.

ACCA21 is willing to cooperate sincerely with all the international institutions and organizations. Certainly, its work will also be conducive to regional, global sustainable development.

Address: Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21
30 Baishiqiao Road, Beijing 100081
The People's Republic of China
Telephone: (86-1) 831-3546 or 831-4433 ext. 2931
Facsimile: (86-1) 831-3546 or 851-2163

Introduction

to

CHINA'S AGENDA 21

**—White Paper on China's Population, Environment,
and Development in the 21st Century**

CONTENTS

China's Agenda 21 in Action	2
Extracts of China's Agenda 21	4
Framework of China's Agenda 21	5
Overall Strategies for Sustainable Development	6
Sustainable Development of Society	11
Sustainable Development of the Economy	15
Resources and Environment Protection	20
The Priority Programme for China's Agenda 21	25
Preamble	25
List of the First Tranche of the Priority Programme	27
Conclusion: Working to Create Our Common Future	30

CHINA'S AGENDA 21 IN ACTION



Agenda 21 addresses the pressing problems of today and also aims at preparing the world for the challenges of the next century. It reflects a global consensus and political commitment at the highest level on development and environment cooperation. Its successful implementation is first and foremost the responsibility of Governments. National strategies, plans, policies and processes are crucial in achieving this.

from Agenda 21, 1.3

The issues of environment and development have led to increasing global concerns. In order to find effective solutions to environmental and developmental issues at present and in the future, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992. From the UN Stockholm Conference in 1972 to the Rio Conference in 1992, the international focus has shifted from the sole emphasis on environmental protection to the issues of environment and development. This came along as the humankind is accelerating economic growth and social progress. It indicates a significant leap of human cognition. It has become a global consensus that economy, society, resources and the environment must develop in a coordinated way. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the issues of environment and development, and sponsored the Ministerial Conference of Developing Countries on Environment and Development in Beijing in June 1991. The conference endorsed the Beijing Declaration which stated clearly the principle stand of the Chinese Government. The Chinese delegation headed by Premier Li Peng, attended the Rio Conference. Premier Li Peng gave a speech on the Rio Conference and committed to carry out all the documents adopted by the conference, including Agenda 21.



Accordingly, in July 1992, the Environmental Protection Committee of the State Council decided to designate the State Planning Commission (SPC) and the State Science and Technology Commission (SSTC) to take charge of organizing more than 50 departments and over 300 experts to formulate China's

Agenda 21 and the related Priority Programme. Soon, the Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (ACCA21) was established to undertake the daily management. The work was supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which has since listed the formulation and implementation of China's Agenda 21 as an important programme with the Chinese Government. UNDP has assigned several teams of international consultants to China to work jointly with their Chinese counterparts. Thanks to their constructive comments and proposals, the framework and format of China's Agenda 21 has been drafted in line with the international practices.

From 25-29 October 1993, the International Workshop on China's Agenda 21 was jointly organized by SPC, SSTC and UNDP in Beijing. About 100 domestic and overseas consultants reviewed and carefully revised the draft of China's Agenda 21. They also discussed the theoretical and practical path that China could undertake to achieve sustainable development.

It took 15 months, from August 1992 to the end of 1993, for China's Agenda 21 to be finally completed. It crystallizes the intelligence, knowledge and views of various departments, groups and domestic and foreign consultants.



China's Agenda 21 puts forward the overall strategies, policies and measures for the coordinated and sustainable development of the domestic economy, society, resource, and the environment proceeding from the country's actual conditions and the links between its environment and development.

China's Agenda 21 was approved by the State Council on 25 March 1994 as the White Paper on China's Population, Environment, and Development in the 21st Century. It will serve as a significant national document for the future domestic economic growth and medium- and long-term social development.



EXTRACTS OF CHINA'S AGENDA 21



We will further implement the policy of reform and opening-up, assimilate and draw on all achievements of human civilization, accelerate the pace of economic growth, and at the same time do a good job in our environmental protection. We stand ready to undertake international responsibilities and obligations compatible with our development level and expand international cooperation in the world environmental protection and development.

*from Speech at Rio Conference
by Premier Li Peng, June, 1992*

China's Agenda 21 was formulated with reference to the framework and format of Agenda 21 and regard to the Chinese actual situation. There are altogether 20 Chapters, including 78 programme areas, with a total of more than 200,000 Chinese characters.

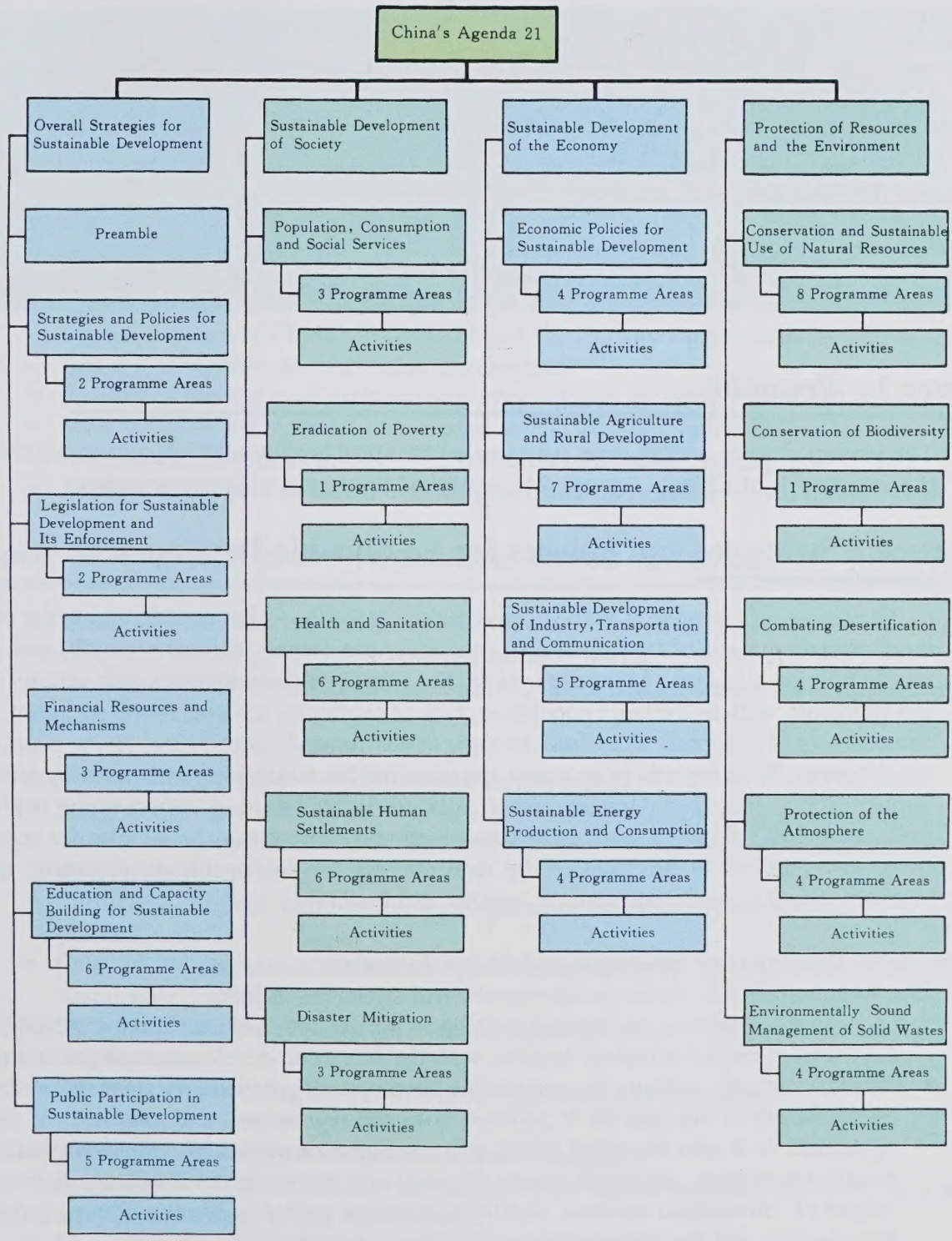
The contents of China's Agenda 21 consists of four main sections, namely:

- Overall strategies for sustainable development;
- Sustainable development of society;
- Sustainable development of the economy;
- Resources and environment protection.

Each section is composed of several chapters, which, in turn, are made up of two parts: introduction and programme areas. The introductions state the purpose, significance, conditions and major problems. The programme areas explain the basis for action, objectives, solutions to the problems and the specific countermeasures.



Framework of China's Agenda 21



Overall Strategies for Sustainable Development

We must get hold of the chances and get ourselves out of the predicament. We must guide our society and economy along the approach of sustainable development. In order to achieve this goal, it is vital for every nation to implement the resolutions and spirit of the Rio Conference, to turn the ideas in Agenda 21 into the policies and actual actions of governments, and to carry out the sustainable development strategies into the daily industrial practices of every country. This is the very starting point of the formulation of China's Agenda 21.

*from Address at the International Workshop
on China's Agenda 21 by Dr. Song Jian,
State Councillor and Chairman of SSTC*

Chapter 1 Preamble

The present chapter mainly deals with the international background, objectives, significance and the framework of China's Agenda 21, as well as the means of implementation.

Chapter 2 Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Development

In the process of the present high-speed economic growth, China is undertaking the momentous tasks of promoting social productivity, enhancing the overall national strength, and improving people's living standard. At the same time, the country also confronted with serious difficulties and problems, such as the huge population, lack of resources, environmental pollution, and under development of economy. They have brought about tremendous pressures on the country's future development. With regards to its actual situation and the strategic objectives to be reached in the future, China should no longer resort only to increases in quantity while neglecting the sustainable utilization of resources. Instead, it should study national strategies for economic and social development in the light of the requirements for sustainable development, so that the economy could expand continuously, rapidly and healthily.

A. Sustainable Development Strategies and Major Initiatives

The main policies to realize the aforementioned strategies include:

- Carry forward reform and expand opening to the outside, and accelerate the establishment of the socialist market economy system, with the economic development as the central focus;
- Enhance capacity building for sustainable development, particularly standardize the establishment of the systems of policies, laws and regulations, and indicators of the strategic objectives. It is also important to set up a management system of resources, biological monitoring system, statistical system of social and economic development, and related system of information services, and to improve the public awareness of sustainable development and the implementation of China's Agenda 21;

- Control population growth, enhance population quality, and improve population make-up;
- Popularize sustainable agricultural technology that suit local conditions;
- Develop clean coal technology, and other forms of clean and renewable energy sources;
- Adjust industrial structure and distribution, improve the rational utilization of resources, and reduce pressures on transportation and communication due to industrial development;
- Popularize cleaner production techniques, minimize the output of waste, encourage the conservation of resources and energy, and enhance the utilization efficiency;
- Speed up the construction of "better-off building", and improve residential environment;
- Develop and popularize key technology for environmental pollution control;
- Strengthen the protection of water resources and sewage treatment, protect and expand vegetation cover, rationally utilize biological resources to safeguard biodiversity, improve regional environmental quality, increase land productivity and mitigate natural disasters.

B. International Cooperation for Sustainable Development

- Fulfil the conventions China has signed on global environment and development, and seek more international technological and financial assistance;
- Encourage international organizations and other parties and individuals to take part in the implementation of China's Agenda 21 and the Priority Programme, as well as the activities that will conducive to sustainable development;
- Strengthen international exchange and cooperations on environment and development;
- Seek effective international cooperation mechanism (involving technology transfer and training) and solutions through international consultation and dialogue;
- Actively participate in global activities and plans for environmental protection.

Chapter 3 Legislation for Sustainable Development and Its Enforcement

As China's social, political and economic lines have increasingly gone onto a legal track, and the country has acceded to more and more multilateral treaties and conventions regarding environment and development, it is necessary to accelerate legislation for sustainable development in future practices.

A. Development of Legislation for Sustainable Development

- Study the present status, future trend and requirements of legislation on sustainable development, and based on the results, formulate legislative plans for sustainable development;
- Formulate laws and improve the legal system in the field of sustainable development in a planned way;
- Enhance the operational capacity of governments at all levels with regard to legislation for sustainable development;
- Strengthen the role of public and various social groups in legislation for sustainable development;
- Develop studies on legislative theory for sustainable development.

B. Enforcement of Legislation for Sustainable Development

- Carry out the study on the enforcement of laws related to sustainable development and explore the optimum way for law enforcement;
- Strengthen the publicity and education on laws governing sustainable development;

- Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement bodies for sustainable development;
- Promote the integration of judicial and administrative procedures with the enforcement of legislation for sustainable development;
- Enhance the participation of the public and non-governmental organizations in the enforcement of legislation for sustainable development;
- Strengthen the supervision of the enforcement of laws related to sustainable development;
- Establish and perfect a supervision mechanism on law enforcement;
- Expand the country's co-operation with overseas on law enforcement.

Chapter 5 Financial Resources and Mechanisms

To ensure the increasing investment serves as an important guarantee for sustainable development. On the basis of relying largely on domestic financing, China should strive for international assistance. It should gradually develop a multi-channel, multi-pattern mechanism for raising funds.

A. Integrating China's Agenda 21 into National Economic Development Plans

- Integrate China's Agenda 21 into economic and social development plans at all levels. First of all, incorporate the Priority Programme into the Ninth Five-Year Plan (1996-2000) and the long-term development plan by 2010.

B. China's Agenda 21 Development Funds

- Gradually establish funds for China's Agenda 21;
- Work out relevant rules on establishing such funds and set up corresponding management bodies.

C. Financial, Taxation and Economic Legislation for Sustainable Development

- Designate departments concerned to carry out the studies on related financial and economic legislation and on technological and economic policies;
- Establish and improve China's financial and taxation system, economic legislation and technological and economic policies on sustainable development, put them into trial run in selected regions, revise and improve them before making them public.

Chapter 6 Education and Capacity Building for Sustainable Development

Education and capacity building are not only related to all fields of sustainable development, but also hold key to development strategies. However, China's poor existing capacity stands out as an obstacle to achieving sustainable development. Therefore, China's Agenda 21 attaches particular importance to capacity building, including the training of decision-makers and administrators involved in sustainable development.

A. Improvement of Management Systems for Sustainable Development

- Establish an integrated decision-making system that will guarantee a coordinated development of the economy, society, resources and the environment;
- Set up or strengthen research institutions on sustainable development;
- Strengthen training of decision-makers and managerial personnel in different ways (such

as through international cooperation) to improve their awareness and capacity for sustainable development.

B. Development of Education

- Increase investment in educational development;
- Foster the public's awareness of sustainable development;
- Establish and improve the professional training network and practise in-service training;
- Strengthen publicity and the popularization of knowledge for sustainable development.

C. Human Resources Development and Capacity Building

- Explain and publicize the significance of intelligence resources in sustainable development and encourage brain exchange;
- Study, sum up and popularize production methods and knowledge conducive to sustainable development;
- Set up professional training institutions at the grassroots level and in urban communities.

D. Science and Technology for Capacity Building

- Develop education and train scientific and technical personnel;
- Improve the protection of intellectual property rights and perfect legislation in the science field;
- Carry out basic theoretical research on sustainable development.

E. Sustainable Development Information Systems

- Work out a proper information framework for sustainable development and fix its standards and functions;
- Appraise and compare the existing information services for sustainable development and gradually develop a better information network;
- Formulate laws and set up an appropriate system for establishing such information sharing;
- Develop and adopt advanced methods for collecting, sending, managing, analyzing and processing information;
- Develop China's own information network open to international exchanges.

F. Continuous Improvement of China's Agenda 21

Chapter 20 Public Participation in Sustainable Development

The way and degree of the public participation in sustainable development will determine the realization of its goals. However, the public and various organizations need to take part in sustainable development in a new form and under a new mechanism. The aim of this chapter is to work strategic arrangements for such participation.

A. Participation of Women in Sustainable Development

- Investigate and evaluate existing legislation and policies with regard to women's participation in sustainable developments, and work out better plans;
- Establish a supervision system as the certain way to execute the laws and policies regarding women's participation;

- Incorporate equal employment opportunities for women into the overall social development plans.

B. Participation of Children and Youth in Sustainable Development

- Adopt measures to encourage the young to take part in sustainable development and environmental protection;
- Adopt measures to guarantee that all young people have equal access to education, and provide more education opportunities for children;
- Plans should be drawn up to promote primary environmental protection activities for youth with address needs of the residential communities they live in.

C. Participation of Minority Nationalities and Minority Nationality Districts in Sustainable Development

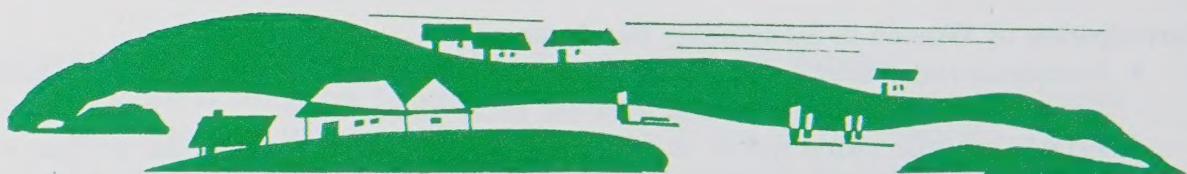
- Perfect national legislation governing the autonomy of ethnic minorities, and encourage ethnic minorities to draw up local legislation;
- Work out plans to help minority areas build up capacity for sustainable development.

D. Participation of Workers and Labour Unions in Sustainable Development

- Governments at various levels and the industrial and business circles should map out plans to ensure that workers and trade unions take an active part in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes regarding environment and development at national, regional and industrial levels, and that they participate in decision-making process and democratic supervision procedures. The mechanism for public participation needs to be improved;
- Provide more training and education opportunities for workers and trade union staff.

E. Strengthening the Role of the Science and Technology Circle in Sustainable Development

- The government should take concrete actions to strengthen the ties and cooperation between decision-makers and the science circle;
- The government should promote international co-operation and exchanges to encourage the participation of the science circle in sustainable development;
- Strengthen ties between the science sector and the public to promote the dissemination of information regarding sustainable development;
- Establish new professional ethics and regulation for the science circle;
- Strengthen and establish advisory bodies at all levels on moral standards regarding environment and development.



Sustainable Development of Society

China's sustainable development strategies will emphasize the social aspects of the sustainable development. To this end, population should be strictly controlled, appropriate consumption will be encouraged, educational and cultural activities will be developed, and particular attention will be paid to educating officials at all levels to improve their ability to promote sustainable development.

from China's Agenda 21, 2.2

Chapter 7 Population, Consumption and Social Services

China has made remarkable achievements in practising an effective policy for population control and various programmes for family planning. Nevertheless, the sheer size of population and the inadequate consumption pattern have brought about tremendous pressures on the country's energy and resources supply. Therefore, it will be crucial for the country to continue its population control policy, enhance the quality of its citizens and foster a rational, sustainable consumption pattern.

A. Control of Population Growth and Improvement of Competence Level

- Keep practising family planning policy, improve family planning-related education and strengthen the role of the government in population management;
- Improve family planning services and introduce better and more effective contraceptives;
- Develop cultural and educational undertakings in rural areas and improve the quality of peasants;
- Establish and improve the social security system for aged people;
- Set up a comprehensive information network;
- Carry out experiments under which human development and the conservation of ecological surroundings go harmoniously, and keep on monitoring the environmental changes nationwide.



B. Establishment of Sustainable Consumption Pattern

- Develop product mix that corresponds with a rational consumption pattern;
- Introduce reforms into the distribution system;
- Facilitate the improvement of consumption structures and diversity consumptions.

C. Actively Developing Social Services and Tertiary Industry

- Increase the share of the tertiary industry in gross national products from the current 27.7 per cent to around 33 per cent by 2000;
- Increase the capacity of commerce;
- Develop non-polluting, environment-friendly "green" tourism;
- Strengthen the administration of the catering trade and develop safe, nutritious and non-polluting food;
- Set up more markets to form a complete circulation network;
- Develop social insurance businesses;
- Perfect the securities market and foster the development of the financial and banking businesses;
- Develop the consultation industry including legal, accounting and auditing services.

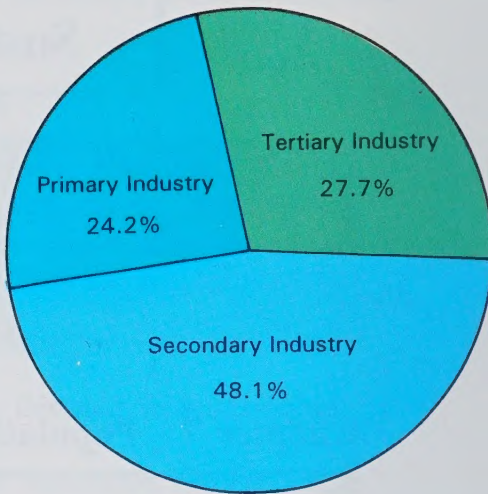
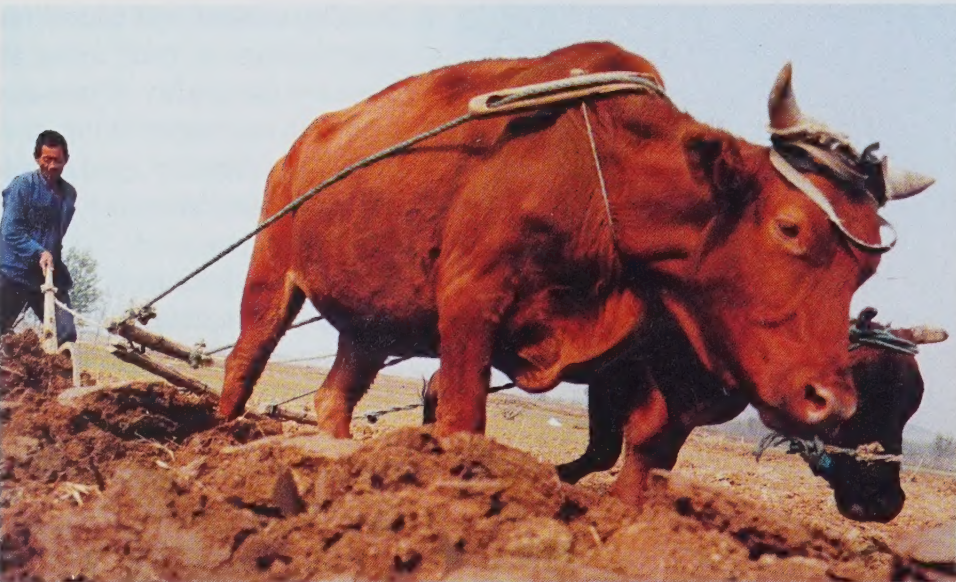


Table 1. Ratio of China's Three Industrial Sectors, 1992

Chapter 8 Eradication of Poverty

During the last four decades, China's poverty relief actions have become an important part of the global campaign in this respect. The country has carried out a great amount of work and has achieved remarkable successes. Nevertheless, poverty still poses a great challenge to developing countries in their sustainable development endeavour and is also a key issue that the Chinese government is poised to settle in its future development. By the end of this century, China will have removed poverty that affects 80 million people.



A. Eradication of Poverty

- Practice a series of effective poverty relief measures;
- Promote the capacity building of impoverishing areas;
- Introduce priority projects conducive to eliminating poverty and achieving sustainable development;
- Carry out international co-operation and strive for more international assistance.

Chapter 9 Health and Sanitation

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, health care for average citizens in the country has undergone remarkable improvement. Now the health standard of the Chinese is in the leading rank among developing countries. Yet the country's health care service still faces many difficulties and challenges. In the light of the overall objectives for the country's economic and social development, the general goal of China's health care during the 1990s and early next century will be to guarantee that all citizens have access to primary health care and that their health status corresponds with their living standard.

A. Meeting Basic Needs for Health Care

- Perfect and strengthen the three-level urban and rural medical care network and establish a comprehensive health care service based on primary health care;
- Promote the establishment and improvement of rural health security system;
- Set up the organizational structure and system for guarantee services.

B. Minimizing the Impacts of Environmental Pollution on People's Health

- Establish systems of sanitary supervision legislation, sanitary standards, sanitary surveillance and monitoring;
- Establish a management mechanism that integrates health care services with environmental protection.

C. Controlling Infectious Diseases

- Strengthen monitoring and control of infectious diseases;
- Enlarge immunity coverage;
- Control the spread of AIDS, the intestines and entomophilous infectious diseases.

D. Reducing the Harmful Impacts of Endemic Diseases

- Adopt effective measures to reduce and cure endemic diseases.

E. Protecting the Vulnerable

- Carry out pre-marriage health check, pregnancy consultation, health care for pregnant women and health check for newly born babies;
- Increase public welfare facilities such as enterprises for welfare purposes and home for old people;
- Set up urban first-aid centres and a social, first-aid network;
- Strengthen monitoring the growth of children.

F. Facing the Challenges of Urban Sanitation

- Carry out international and inter-regional exchange on urban sanitation service.

Chapter 10 Development of Sustainable Human Settlements

The objective of human settlement development is to develop residential quarters with rational designs and layout, complete public facilities, clean and quiet environment, beautiful scenery and comfortable living condition. The objective could not be realized without the participation

of social groups and average citizens. During the process, the government and legislative departments have to work out adequate laws and regulations, development strategies and plans of action to guide the development. The objective could be realized in the following six programme areas:

- A. Management of Urbanization and Human Settlements**
- B. Construction of Infrastructure and Improvement of Human Settlement Functions**
- C. Improvement of the Human Settlement Environment**
- D. Provision of Adequate Shelter for All**
- E. Promotion of Sustainable Development of the Construction Industry**
- F. Energy Conservation and Enhancement of Energy Efficiency in Human Settlements**

The above six programmes could be implemented through actions of management, scientific research, construction of demonstration projects, capacity building and international co-operation.

Chapter 17 Disaster Mitigation

China is one of the countries in the world with the most natural disasters. The frequent occurrence and severity of natural disasters are determined by the country's unique geographical environment and are related to China's social and economic development. It is important for us to increase the capacity of natural disaster prevention, and, at time of major catastrophes, strive to reduce the losses to the minimum, while increasing the capacity of the society as a whole to withstand natural disasters.

A. Improving Natural Disaster Management

- Strengthen legislation on disaster management and disaster reduction planning;
- Strengthen the institutional construction for disaster management;
- Carry forward studies of disaster management;
- Strengthen research on natural disaster information processing and information management;
- Promote publicity of disaster prevention and mitigation and raise the public's disaster awareness.

B. Promoting the Establishment of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Systems, Reducing Losses Caused by Natural Disasters

- Formulate comprehensive urban disaster prevention planning and work out countermeasures for disaster mitigation;
- Promote study on disaster observation and monitoring, and establish a sound disaster monitoring system;
- Study and put into practice techniques to prevent, fight and mitigate disasters;
- Construct key demonstration projects for comprehensive treatment of natural disasters.

C. Reducing Natural Disasters Caused or Aggravated by Human Factors

Sustainable Development of the Economy

While the economy is undergoing rapid development, it will be necessary to ensure rational utilization of natural resources and protection of the environment, and it is necessary for China to embark on a gradual path to sustainable development.

from China's Agenda 21, 2.1

Chapter 4 Economic Policies for Sustainable Development

Since late 1978 the economy has developed greatly. In order to further enhance the national strength and to improve people's living standard, China must maintain the economic development in a sustainable way, rapidly and healthily. Meanwhile, efforts should be paid to protect resources and the environment on which the economic development depends. Therefore, environment, resources and economy must be correlated with each other. Economic leverage should be supported by necessary administrative methods to better handle the relationship between environmental protection and economic development.

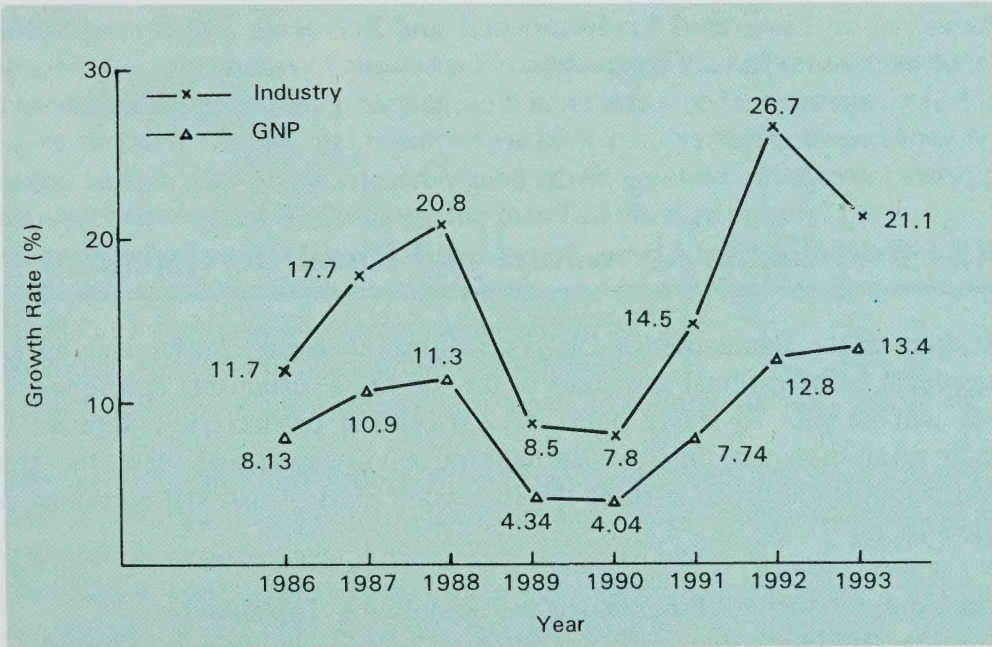


Table 2. China's Economic Growth Rate

A. Establishment of the Socialist Market Economy System

- Establish the legal system of the socialist market economy;
- Completely delegate independent decision-making power to enterprises;
- Accelerate the reforms in the sectors of finance and taxation, banking planning and investment;
- Establish open-door economy.

B. Promotion of Economic Development

- Pay special attention to and strengthen agricultural development, promote steady development of rural economy and continuously boost farmer's income;
- Further develop the secondary industry, and readjust the industrial structure;
- Develop the service industry;
- Accelerate the development of science and technology, and enhance the role of science and technology in economic development;
- Consider the environment effects and power consuming of various industries and products during making the industrial policies and readjusting industrial structure;
- Encourage co-operation between the eastern and western regions, and promote economic and technological co-operation between developed and underdeveloped areas;
- Stick to the opening policy, further improve investment environment, and guide the foreign investment.

C. Effective Use of Economic Instruments and Market Mechanisms for Promoting Sustainable Development

- Reform the unreasonable pricing system, and establish the paid use system of all kinds of resources and energy;
- Employ the taxation, finance, and credit policies in promoting sustainable development;
- Enhance studies on economic policies to maintain sustainable development.

D. Establishment of an Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting System

- Set up and issue the new comprehensive accounting system;
- Enhance international cooperation and exchanges on the comprehensive environmental and economic accounting;
- Improve the capacity building on the comprehensive environmental and economic accounting.

Chapter 11 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Agriculture is the foundation of China's national economy. Sustainable agriculture and rural development is the cardinal guarantee of the country's sustainable development. From now on, efforts will be paid to stably boost the agricultural productivity, improve food production, develop rural economy, improve agricultural environment and make the rational use of the natural resources in order to meet the increasing need of national economic development and people's living.

A. Promoting Comprehensive Management for Sustainable Development

- Examine and verify the existing agricultural policies and laws based on the principle of maintaining sustainable development;
- Establish a comprehensive management system for sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- Expand the various experiments to keep sustainable agricultural development;
- Establish and improve a multi-functional, comprehensive and relatively independent sustainable agriculture and rural development information system.

B. Enhancing the Food Security and Pre-warning System

- Establish highly efficient food security forecasting and warning system;
- Establish and improve food reserve, processing and distribution system at all levels.

C. Adjusting the Agricultural Structure and Optimizing the Combination of Resources and Production Factors

- Study and establish the industrial policy to improve rural industrial structure and rational resources uses;
- Boost various types of sustainable agricultural development.

D. Increasing Agricultural Inputs and Improving Comprehensive Productivity

- Strengthen the planning and management on infrastructure in rural areas;
- Pay more attention to five protective forest belts construction, especially "protective forest belts in north, northeast, northwest China", and encourage people to plant trees and grass;
- Improve the use of water resources on arable land and upgrade technology to save water;
- Improve the use of fertilizer and encourage to use farmyard manure;
- Control the use of fungicide and high-residue chemical films;
- Employ more machines in working on land and processing agricultural products.

E. Sustainable Use of Agricultural Natural Resources and Protection of the Natural Environment

- Strengthen the management of agricultural natural resources and environmental protection system;
- Establish and improve data bases for the agricultural natural resources and environmental protection;
- Import, improve, breed, and localize new biological varieties from abroad.

F. Development of Science and Technology for Sustainable Agriculture

- Research and disseminate technologies to increase the utilization rate of agricultural inputs;
- Breed new agricultural species of the high productivity, high quality and efficiency, and provide new high-quality species resources;
- Encourage research and open-up of technologies;
- Establish and improve a wide, effective network to promote agricultural technologies.

G. Development of Township and Village Enterprises and Construction of Rural Centres

- Draw up laws and regulations on township and village enterprises, and the necessary legislation and regulation;
- Draw up the layout plans for rural township centres;
- Promote the construction of standardized and practical rural housing.

Chapter 12 Sustainable Development of Industry, Transportation and Communication

Since 1949, China's industry, transportation and communication have made remarkable progress. However, the technological level is still low and the quality is still poor. It is necessary to readjust the industrial structure to establish a socialist market economy. On the whole, it is also

necessary to reform traditional industries, to emphasize the development of hi-tech, to encourage cleaner production and to improve quality of products.

A. Improving the Industrial Structure and Distribution

- Set up energy conservation demonstrations in the fields of both energy production and consumption with the help of preferential loans provided by the state;
- Put emphasis of construction of fundamental raw material industry on strengthening energy and material saving and penetration of high technologies in the development of metallurgical industry and farm-supporting industries;
- Issue standards of economic scale for main industries and products in the form of national industry policies and regulations;
- Work out regional economic development plans and regional industrial policies.

B. Developing Cleaner Production and Green Products

- Formulate standards and principles of cleaner production and the relevant laws, regulations and economic instruments;
- Introduce cleaner production technologies and install facilities;
- Establish various kinds of cleaner production demonstration projects;
- Research and develop cleaner production processes and products of no hazardness to public, less pollution and low consumption of energy and materials;
- Take the place of products harmful to the environment with green products.

C. Development and Application of Industrial Technology

- Include major science and technology programmes supporting sustainable industry development into local governments' science and research programmes;
- Improve planned production capacity and technological level of energy, transportation, and raw materials industries;
- Develop environmentally sound industrial technologies which are beneficial to the global environment;
- Enact preferential policies to guide and promote the development of environmental protection industry.

D. Improvement and Enhancement of Industrial Management

- Amend and perfect the existing laws and regulations on environmental protection;
- Encourage comprehensive utilization of resources and energy;
- Enhance monitoring and supervision capacity of environmental protection agencies.

E. Promoting Sustainable Development of Transportation and Communications

- Strengthen overall planning of transportation construction in urban areas, and increase government inputs;
- Introduce foreign advanced equipment and management technologies, and enhance comprehensive transportation capacity through various transportation means;
- Improve technological level of post and telecommunications.

Chapter 13 Sustainable Energy Production and Consumption

Under robust economic growth, China's energy industry is under the pressure of economic growth and environmental protection. Therefore, transforming the traditional ways of energy production and consumption is the important component part of the strategies for China's sustainable development. It is necessary to improve comprehensive planning and management on energy, to work out and issue policies and legal framework related to a market economy, to develop and spread the technologies of advanced energy production and use, to improve economic returns of energy, to reduce pollution and finally to maintain sustainable development of energy industry.

A. Comprehensive Energy Planning and Management

- Establish institutional construction to enact integrated development planning of energy, environment and economy;
- Strengthen legislation related to both energy and environment, and improve economic system at all levels;
- Encourage various environmentally sound energy systems, including research, development, transfer and utilization of new and renewable energy technologies.

B. Improving Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation

- Develop and spread advanced technologies of energy conservation;
- Enact energy consumption quotas and standards;
- Gradually set up technological service centres for energy conservation in each city and relevant sectors;
- Establish energy conservation demonstrations.

C. Disseminating Less Polluting Coal Mining and Clean Coal Technologies

- Formulate and perfect policies, laws and regulations in favour of development of less-pollution coal mining technologies and clean coal technologies;
- Popularize technologies of coal washing and energy transformation;
- Adopt high efficient power sets with big capacity in new power plant, develop clean coal combustion technologies;
- Develop and introduce advanced and effective technologies of gas clean-up;
- Establish the information system of clean coal technologies;
- Develop reclamation and utilization technologies of mining wastes.

D. Development of New and Renewable Energy Resources

- Strengthen research on technologies to use various new and renewable energy sources;
- Establish different demonstration projects for utilization of new and renewable energy sources.



Resources and Environment Protection

China's fundamental social and economic features and its resource and environmental constraints make it clear that if the rational use of resources and protection of the environment are not considered in planning for overall economic development, economic growth will be difficult to sustain, and it will be difficult to build the conditions for sustainable development for future generations.

from China's Agenda 21, 2.11

Chapter 14 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

It is a problem for all countries to guarantee the utilization of natural resources at the lowest environmental cost while boosting economic and social development. The per-capita of many important resources in China, such as arable land, fresh water and forest, is lower than the world's average. On the way of industrialization and urbanization, we must ensure the reasonable utilization of resources in the various aspects of laws, decision-making and economic accounting system.

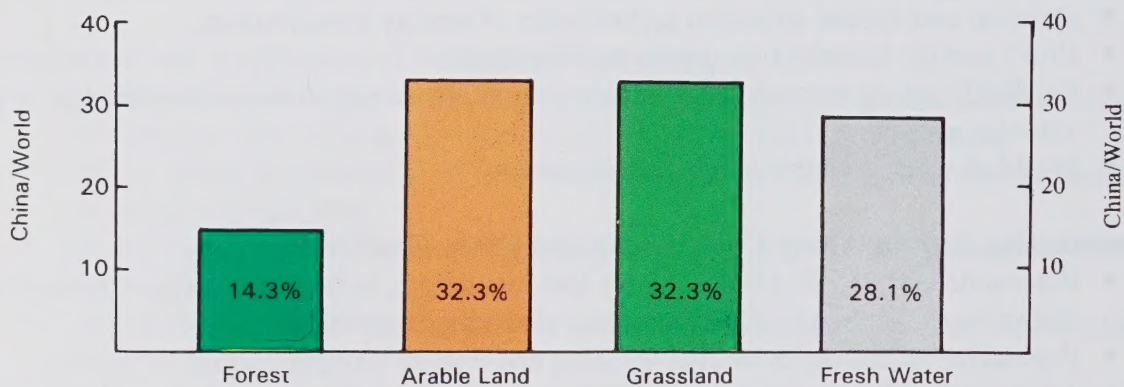


Table 3. Chinese Per-Capita Natural Resources/World

- A. Establishing the Natural Resource Management System Based on the Market Mechanisms and Government Macroeconomic Control
 - Upgrade the collection of data and information.
- B. Implementing the Sustainable Development Impact Assessment System in the Decision-making for Natural Resource Management
 - The management and research activities of maintaining sustainable development;
 - Assessment of sustainable development.
- C. Protection and utilization of Water Resources
 - Utilization, protection and management of water resources, including the supply and

demand and evaluation of water resource, protection of water environment, exploitation and pollution control of groundwater, urban water and industrial water, prevention and control of water contamination, and comprehensive legislation;

- Scientific research and demonstration projects for the protection of water resources.

D. Management and Sustainable Development of Land Resources

- Complete modernization of information processing of land resources;
- Make investigation of land resources at the four levels of state, province, prefecture and county.

E. Cultivation, Protection, Management, and Sustainable Development of Forest Resources

- Activities of forest resources management, including supervision on forest resources;
- Set up demonstration project bases and training centres across the country, open demonstration units of forest management and forest resources, and establish the state training centre of forest management and forest resources.

F. Sustainable Development and Conservation of Marine Resources

- Develop and protect the island and marine resources;
- Develop the oceanography and technology, and open demonstration projects.

G. Rational Development, Utilization, and Protection of Mineral Resources

- Comprehensive exploration and evaluation of mineral resources;
- Reservation and management of mineral resources environment.

H. Sustainable Utilization and Conservation of Grassland Resources

- Reservation and management of grassland resources;
- Undertaking of research on grassland resources;
- Project construction of sustainable use of grassland resources.

Chapter 15 Conservation of Biodiversity

The rich and unique animal and plant resources in China are the embodiment of biodiversity in the world. China has signed the United Nation Biodiversity Convention and is preparing a state action plan to implement the Convention. In the meantime, China has adopted a series of steps to conserve biodiversity, including establishing natural reserves, saving and breeding rare animals, such as panda, Chinese alligator, and planting rare plants. The Chinese Government will unswervingly make efforts to conserve biodiversity.

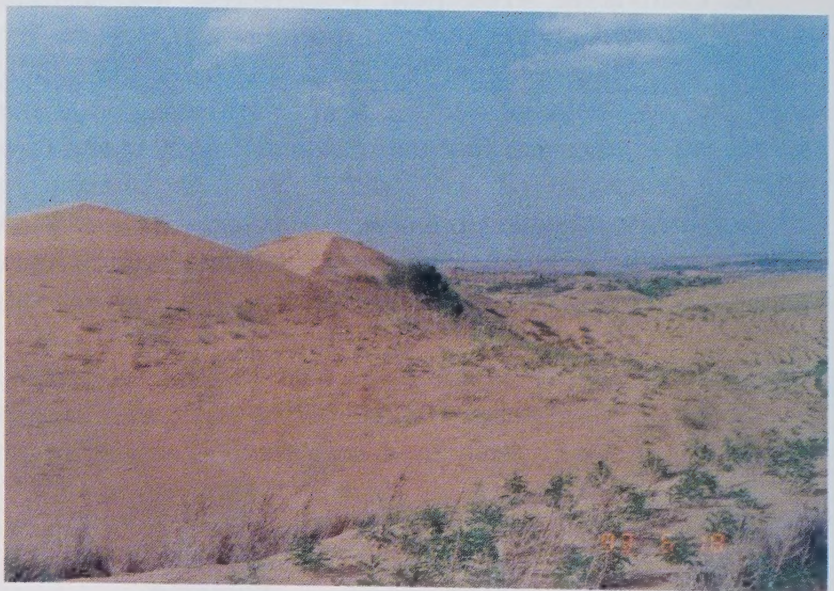


A. Conservation of Biodiversity

- Set up monitoring and information system of biodiversity;
- Seek international and regional cooperation on biodiversity;
- Conduct research on biodiversity protection and sustainable use;
- Construct demonstration projects in multi-forms of conservation and utilization of biodiversity.

Chapter 16 Combating Desertification

The desertification problem in China becomes more serious and the total desert area accounts for 8 percent of China's land area. In recent years the Chinese Government has formulated the overall plan of China's land and inter-provincial comprehensive development and control programmes and has strengthened policies of land management and forest resources protection, and also has accelerated afforestation to control serious soil erosion.



A. Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Desertification and Its Management

- Actions of management and reclamation of desertification are to desert-control in the country's economic and social development plan, to carry out the evaluation of environmental effect and to establish special organizations in charge of prevention and control;
- Establish the National Research and Prevention Centre of Desertification;
- Construct key projects to prevent desertification in both south and north China and to build demonstrative and experimental projects of various desert forms.

B. Economic Development in Areas Prone to Desertification in Northern China

- Set up the demonstrative projects of developed agriculture and ecological agriculture in sandy areas.

C. Comprehensive Prevention and Control of Soil Erosion

- Strengthen the management of water and soil conservation;
- Spread the experiences of controlling the 10,000 small rivers.

D. Construction and Management of Ecological Engineering for Soil Conservation

Chapter 18 Protection of the Atmosphere

China relies on coal burning thus causing serious air pollution. China has joined the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate and paid much attention to controlling air pollution. By adjusting industrial structure, the country strives for reducing environmental pollution. It sets a time limit for those enterprises, industries and areas that cause heavy pollution. Recent years China have made a great deal of work in developing technology of cleaner production, clean coal and substitutes for CFCs.



A. Prevention and Control of Atmospheric Pollution and Acid Rain

- Emphasize on scientific research and development of technology in the respect of controlling coal burning and acid pollutants;
- Establish appropriate management and consultation organizations;
- Take actions to monitoring and control acid rain.

B. Prevention of Stratospheric Ozone Depletion

- Establish a legal system for controlling ODS in China;
- Create a data base and information system of ODS production, consumption, import, and export;
- Support the research on and development of substitutes and substitution technologies.

C. Controlling Greenhouse Gas Emission

- Formulate a national programme for controlling greenhouse gases;
- Enforce afforestation and increase green vegetation;
- Participate the research on, and cooperation of international climate change and seek international technologies aids.

D. Construction of Climate Change Monitoring, Forecasting, and Service Systems

Chapter 19 Environmentally Sound Management of Solid Wastes

With a high-speed economic growth, China pays great attention to disposing and utilization of industrial solid wastes. By establishing solid waste disposal sites, incineration plants and

comprehensive utilization facilities, solid wastes have been disposed effectively and environmentally sound management has been developed.

A. Disposal and Management of Solid Wastes

- Enhance the prevention of solid wastes pollution caused by economic leverage;
- Strengthen the research on treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes, and start demonstration projects.



B. Safe and Environmentally Sound Management of Radioactive Wastes

- Stipulate and improve the laws and regulations, and technical standard and criteria for controlling radioactive wastes;
- Develop radioactive waste disposal facilities, and monitoring and feed-back systems.

C. Environmentally Sound Management of Municipal Solid Wastes

- Formulate and implement the laws and regulations governing municipal solid waste and methodically carry out the refuse treatment charge policy;
- Take measures of safe disposal and recycling of municipal solid wastes;
- Formulate preferential economic policies to encourage the comprehensive utilization of municipal solid waste.

D. Management of Recyclable Wastes

- Establish a state demonstration zone for wastes recycling;
- Encourage the public to make efforts in wastes recycling.



THE PRIORITY PROGRAMME FOR CHINA'S AGENDA 21



The Priority Programme for China's Agenda 21 are directly derived from China's Agenda 21. As a result, they serve to transform China's Agenda 21, a strategic framework, to a phased, operational programme of priority projects, which combine pressing issues to be solved, capacity building, key technologies and demonstration projects for China's sustainable development.

from China's Agenda 21, 6.56

Preamble

Basis for Action

The Priority Programme, compiled by the State Science and Technology Commission and the State Planning Commission in line with other about 52 ministries, agencies and public opinions, are formulated in accordance with the development objectives and programme areas of China's Agenda 21. On the basis of proposals of 550 projects from various ministries and agencies, the first tranche of priority programmes are screened in order to seek international cooperation and aid. The rest about 500 project proposals can be available in detail from the Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 and their inventory will also be submitted to the High-Level Round Table Conference in July 1994.

Selection Criteria

The Priority Programme will:

- indicate the pressing problems, key technologies, demonstration projects, and capacity building in sustainable development;
- embody the common issues of global concern; and
- be combined with the development plans being or to be implemented in various regions and sectors, and the requirements for domestic funding, repaying ability, and inception conditions must be satisfied.

Objectives

- The Priority Programme will give an impetus to focusing domestic and international funds on key projects so as to accelerate the international cooperation in China's sustainable development and to provide appropriate opportunities and favorable environment for receiving

international aid.

- The first 60 priority projects will be put forward in the High-Level Round Table Conference on China's Agenda 21 during 7-9 July 1994, in order to seek international cooperation.

Priorities

The first tranche of priority Programmes consists into 9 Programme areas. They are:

- Priority 1. Capacity Building for Sustainable Development
 - including sustainable development of legislation and policies, education and training, and public participation;
- Priority 2. Sustainable Agriculture
 - including agricultural development strategy and the construction of demonstration projects, saving and development environmentally sound agriculture and green products;
- Priority 3. Cleaner Production and Environmental Protection Industry
 - including cleaner production management, input of cleaner production technology and demonstrative projects, environmental protection industry, etc.;
- Priority 4. Clean Energy and Transportation
 - including clean coal combustion, renewable energy, energy saving, modern transportation management in urban areas etc.;
- Priority 5. Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources
 - including prevention of soil erosion, mineral resource protection, natural resources accounting method, and establishment of exchange market;
- Priority 6. Environmental Pollution Control
 - including urban water pollution control and water recycling, improvement of lake water quality, environmentally sound management and acid rain control;
- Priority 7. Combating Poverty and Region Development
 - including poverty alleviation demonstration projects, and typical regional development projects of international attention with great economic potential and significant economic results;
- Priority 8. Population, Health and Human Settlements
 - including the demonstration projects of community sustainable development, population control, health and sanitation and disaster prevention and mitigation;
- Priority 9. Global Change and Biodiversity Protection
 - including projects of global climate change, biodiversity protection, prevention of desertification, etc..

List of the First Tranche of the Priority Programme

The following list indicates the First Tranche of the Priority Programme, including more than 60 projects in 9 priorities screened out of over 500 project proposals. A flexible and manifold approach will be adopted to conduct international cooperation related to the Priority Programme. We do hope to establish long-term partnerships concerning China's Agenda 21 with the international community.

Priority 1 Capacity Building for Sustainable Development

1. Formulation and enforcement of China's legislation for sustainable development
 - ▲ Enactment and amendment of laws for sustainable development in China
 - ▲ Investigation and enforcement measures of legislation for sustainable development in China
2. Evaluation and adjustment of China's industrial policies
3. Formulation of sustainable development indicators for China
4. Education for sustainable development in China
5. Establishment of China's International Training Centre for Sustainable Development (CITCSD)
6. Capacity building for rural women's participation in sustainable development in five provinces in northwest China

Priority 2 Sustainable Agriculture

1. Strategy for intensive sustainable agriculture in China and demonstration projects in ten counties
2. Sustainable agriculture in rural areas in Huang-Huai-Hai Plain
3. Sustainable agriculture in the red-yellow soils in southern China
 - ▲ Sustainable agriculture and protection of the environment in the hilly red-yellow soils in southern China
 - ▲ Sustainable farming in mountains, hills, and plains of Jiangxi Province
4. Sustainable management of water resources for agriculture and a demonstration project
5. Information system for land use and crop yield estimation in China by using remote sensing
6. Development of biological pesticides and "green" foods

Priority 3 Cleaner Production and Environmental Protection Industry

1. Enhancing management, standards, policies and regulations for cleaner production in China
2. Cleaner production and demonstration in paper-making, chemical fibre pulp factory and steel factory
 - ▲ Cleaner production demonstration project: construction of a straw pulp and paper manufacturing plant
 - ▲ A demonstration project for cleaner production of chemical fibre pulp
 - ▲ Demonstration project for cleaner production of Steel
3. Promoting development of China's environmental protection equipment

manufacturing and management capacity

4. ▲ Application of a dry scrubber system for control of industrial emissions
▲ Practical Engineering of flue gas desulphurisation and NO_x removal integrated technology equipments
5. Construction and management of China's Yixing Industrial Park for Environmental Science and Technology

Priority 4 Clean Energy and Transportation

1. Construction of integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) demonstration power plant
2. Construction of 150 MWe pressurized fluidized bed combustion (PFBC) combined cycle demonstration power plant
3. Construction of nuclear heating plant and improvement of safety capacity
4. Emission control, energy conservation and improvement of safety for automotive products
5. Development, utilization, and demonstration of renewable energy
▲ Solar thermal and photovoltaic power utilization
▲ Development of large size wind turbine generator
▲ Development, utilization, and demonstration projects of biomass
6. Modern transport planning and management technique a pilot light rail project

Priority 5 Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources

1. Natural resources accounting: research and experiment application
2. Prevention and control of soil erosion and land degradation in the upper and middle reaches of the Yangtze River
3. Conservation and sustainable utilization of wetland resources in Boyanghu and north Jiangsu Province
4. Management and reclamation of mine tailings
5. Sustainable resource development in the Tarim Basin
6. Marketing secondary resources reclaimed from wastes
7. Construction and research on the dynamic monitoring network of natural resources and the environment in China
8. Remote sensing monitoring of coastal urbanization and the environment
9. Conservation of dinosaur eggs in Xixia, Henan Province and research on global change resulted from the paleo-environment

Priority 6 Environmental Pollution Control

1. Water pollution control and waste water reclamation demonstration in Sanya and Qingdao Cities
▲ Water pollution control and protection of water resources in Sanya City, Hainan Island
▲ The Sustainable utilization and protection of water resources in Qingdao
2. Comprehensive renovation of regional water environment
▲ Water environment realignment project in north Jiangsu
▲ Waste water treatment demonstration project in Luohe, Henan Province
▲ Integrated water management in the Jingsha urban area
3. Water pollution control and environmental recovery of lake
▲ Water pollution control and demonstration project in Dianchi Lake
▲ Water pollution control and sustainable use of resources in the water-land ecotone in Baiyangdian Lake

- ▲ Conversation of Water environment and ecology construction of Bosteng Lake in Xinjiang, China
- 4. Acid rain control along China's eastern coastal areas
- 5. Municipal solid waste management systems, technical standards and capacity building in China
- 6. Technical support and disposal demonstration of hazardous wastes and toxic materials in China
- 7. Safe management and disposal technique of radioactive wastes
 - ▲ Safe and effective management of radioactive wastes
 - ▲ Radioactive waste disposal technology demonstration project
- 8. Prevention and control of marine oil spills

Priority 7 Poverty Alleviation and Regional Development

1. Reversal of the impoverishment-degradation spiral in the karst areas of southwest China
2. Sustainable poverty alleviation in arid northern China
3. Reversal of the impoverishment-degradation cycle in Jinshanmon areas
4. Planning and development in the Chinese Lancang-Mekong border area
5. Research on sustainable development of the area along the Euro-Asia rail link in China
6. Abatement of poverty, erosion and pollution in upstream East Liaohe Basin
7. Development and conservation in the Yellow River delta
8. Economic development and conservation of nature in the Hanas border area

Priority 8 Population, Health and Human Settlements

1. Research and development of contraceptive vaccines
2. Establishing a rural health insurance system
3. Protection of endangered species used in traditional Chinese medicine and development of alternatives
4. Prevention and cure of AIDS, cancers and drug abuse with traditional Chinese medicine
5. Prevention of occupational disease and protection of the work environment in the mining industry
6. Increasing energy efficiency in buildings
7. Comprehensive pilot area for human settlement construction and sustainable development
8. Comprehensive estimation of China's natural disasters and disasters mitigation demonstration in Pudong, Shanghai
 - ▲ China's natural disasters management system: establishment of a national integrated assessment, prevention, and response programme
 - ▲ Establishment of disaster prevention and management centre in Pudong New Area, Shanghai

Priority 9 Global Change and Biodiversity Conservation

1. Establishing of East Asia Centre for Global Change
2. Establishing the National Climate Centre for China
3. Country study on climate change
4. Establishment of a biodiversity network and conservation of endangered species
5. Conservation and restoration of tropical rain forest in southern China
6. Prevention and control of desertification: a demonstration project in China

CONCLUSION: WORKING TO CREATE OUR COMMON FUTURE



We re-emphasize that we intend to participate fully in the global effort to protect the environment without hindering the development process and that this can be achieved if the right climate is created global cooperation by a positive, constructive and practical response on the part of the developed countries, so that we can jointly promote the well-being of the present and future generations.

*from Beijing Ministerial Declaration
on Environment and Development*

China's Agenda 21 puts forward the country's objectives and guideline of action set to make its economic and social development compatible with its population, resources and environmental requirements. It is an important event in country's pursuit of sustainable development. For this reason, the formulation and implementation of China's Agenda 21 are not only China's inherent requirement of the country's social development, but also serve as carrying out the UNCED spirits in a serious manner. It fully demonstrates the country's strong determination and its sincere wish to work jointly with other countries to explore an optimum way of sustainable development. China's Agenda 21 has not only set the country's blueprint for economic development and environmental protection in the future, but also laid the ground for it to participate in the international co-operation in the area.

It is an established policy of the Chinese Government to implement China's Agenda 21 and to take the path of sustainable development. Once the objectives are set, we should press forward unswervingly and surmount all difficulties to attain the goals. The commitment of the Chinese Government is demonstrated by the following aspects:

- The ranking leaders of the Chinese Government attach great importance to China's Agenda 21, which was ratified by the State Council on 25 March 1994.
- The Chinese Government has decided to gradually incorporate China's Agenda 21 into its national economic and social development plans of all levels. It is mobilizing all parties of the society to participate in the implementation of the China's Agenda 21.
- Since early 1980's the Chinese Government has made environment protection a fundamental state policy in its modernization drive, and has included it into the long-term and annual national economic and social development plans. Meanwhile, it has worked out and implemented a series of laws and policies, and has developed its own environmental protection pattern that suits local conditions.
- China's Agenda 21 was formulated on the basis of extensive discussions among and consultation with various parties within the government. More and more social groups and individuals have come to know the concept of sustainable development. This will be conducive to promoting the public understanding and endorsement of China's Agenda 21 and

implementation of the priority programmes.

- The international situation is to China's advantage in its pursuit of sustainable development. China has established long-term bilateral or multilateral cooperation with the related nations and international organizations in protecting the environment and natural resources. The formulation of China's Agenda 21 has drawn wide attention from the international society. A lot of international groups and organizations have expressed their willingness to help China to carry out its Agenda 21.

It is expected that the implementation of China's Agenda 21 will get warm responses from various domestic departments and localities and the support of international communities.

The formulation of China's Agenda 21 is only the very beginning of the country's endeavour to achieve sustainable development. China will do its best to carry out the Priority Programme in future. It is ready to cooperate with all nations and international organizations in the areas of sustainable development. Meanwhile, China will respect and take into account the interests of those foreign agencies, enterprises, and all friends that have assisted China in implementing the strategy of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is a great unprecedented in history. China's endeavour in this regard is an important part of sustainable development course in the world. Today, China's development has been gradually integrated with the world economy, thanks to its implementation of an open policy and its endeavour to set up socialist market economy. In this connection, to guide China's economic growth onto the track of sustainable development is in itself a contribution to the world sustainable development course. The Chinese nation has made great contributions to the human civilization in history. We have reason to believe that the implementation of China's sustainable development strategy will be a ringing success now that the global community and international organizations have pledged to support and participate in the process. The Chinese nation is willing to make its due efforts in the creation of a common future for the mankind. It hopes to carry out more extensive and substantial co-operation with the international community to make as much contribution as possible in the undertaking.



Design and Layout by

Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Economy, SPC
Department of Science and Technology for Social Development, SSTC
Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21

Published by China Environmental Science Press

8 Beigangzi Street, Chongwen District, Beijing 100062

Photos from China Environment News, Xinhua News Agency and China Daily

Cover Designer Yuan Jiahong

© 1994, ACCA21

All Rights Reserved.

Printed in Beijing, 1994

ISBN 7-80093-610-4/X • 853





ISBN 7-80093-610-4



9 787800 936104 >

ISBN 7-80093-610-4/X • 853